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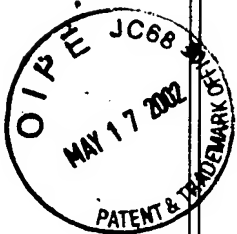
PATENT
100/12710

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May 8, 2002

By

Michelle Chan
Michelle Chan



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GARY L. SHUCK

Application No.: 10/092,011

Filed: March 5, 2002

For: PROCESS FOR FILLING
MICROFLUIDIC CHANNELS

Examiner: To be Assigned

Art Unit: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 with the following like numbered claim.

1. A method of at least partially filling at least one microfluidic channel of a microfluidic device with a gas or fluid, the method comprising:
applying a vacuum to the at least one microfluidic channel of the microfluidic device; and
at least partially filling the at least one microfluidic channel with at least one of a gas or fluid while the at least one microfluidic channel remains under vacuum.